

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

On page 22, please replace the Abstract with the following:

**ABSTRACT**

The invention concerns an optical security element having a substrate layer, in which a first microstructure for producing a first optically perceptible effect is shaped region-wise in a surface region (2). The surface region (2) is divided into microscopically fine pattern regions (21 to 40) and a background region (20). The first microstructure is shaped in the pattern regions (21 to 40) but not in the background region (20). The microscopically fine pattern regions (21 to 40) in the surface region (2) are arranged in the form of a moire pattern into which a concealed item of information which can be evaluated by means of an associated verification element is encoded as a security feature. The microscopically fine pattern regions (21 to 40) are further substructured in accordance with a substructuring function which describes a microscopic substructuring, serving as a further security feature, of the moire pattern.

(Figure 2)